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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 2 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 1 May 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 1 May 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to respond to the letter dated 17 April 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which was circulated as document A/51/879-S/1997/322 of 21 April 1997.

The said letter repeats the well-known allegations of the Greek Cypriot side regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia ...". I would like to reiterate emphatically that these allegations stem from the unfounded claim of the Greek Cypriot side to be the sole sovereign authority in the island and over its airspace, whereas it has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In this connection, I would also like to reiterate that flights by Turkish aircraft within the airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is a matter that concerns the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Turkey as two sovereign independent States which recognize each other. Any attempted interference with this airspace or flight information region is null and void and serves no other purpose than further raising tension in the island, which is already high as a result of the recent purchase by the Greek Cypriot side of the sophisticated S-300 missile system, as well as its overall militarization activity, in defiance of Security Council resolution 1092 (1996).

Indeed, with the speedy implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine", south Cyprus is being converted into a military base for Greece. While the construction of air and naval bases in south Cyprus for use by the Greek armed forces continues, the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front persists in further raising tension in the island by conducting provocative war games in and around south Cyprus. In this context, the Greek Cypriot administration and Greece are preparing to stage joint military exercises codenamed "Toxotis" in early May to be followed by further military manoeuvres codenamed "Vergina".

The level of joint decision-making and action between the two, both at the military and political levels, is such that the Greek Cypriot side's official spokesman, Mr. Christofides, has made no secret of it by recently stating that "Cyprus cannot decide alone. Decisions are made only after joint consultations and evaluations with Greece" (Greek Cypriot daily Fileleftheros of 22 April 1997). I have no doubt that the international community, in awareness of its negative implications for a pacific resolution of the dispute, will draw the necessary conclusions from this all-encompassing integration between Greece and south Cyprus.

Particularly at a time when efforts are being made to resume direct negotiations between the leaders of the two sides in Cyprus under United Nations

auspices, the necessity of abstaining from this kind of behaviour and propaganda is obvious. It is high time that the Greek Cypriot side starts acting in accordance with its responsibilities in this respect.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus